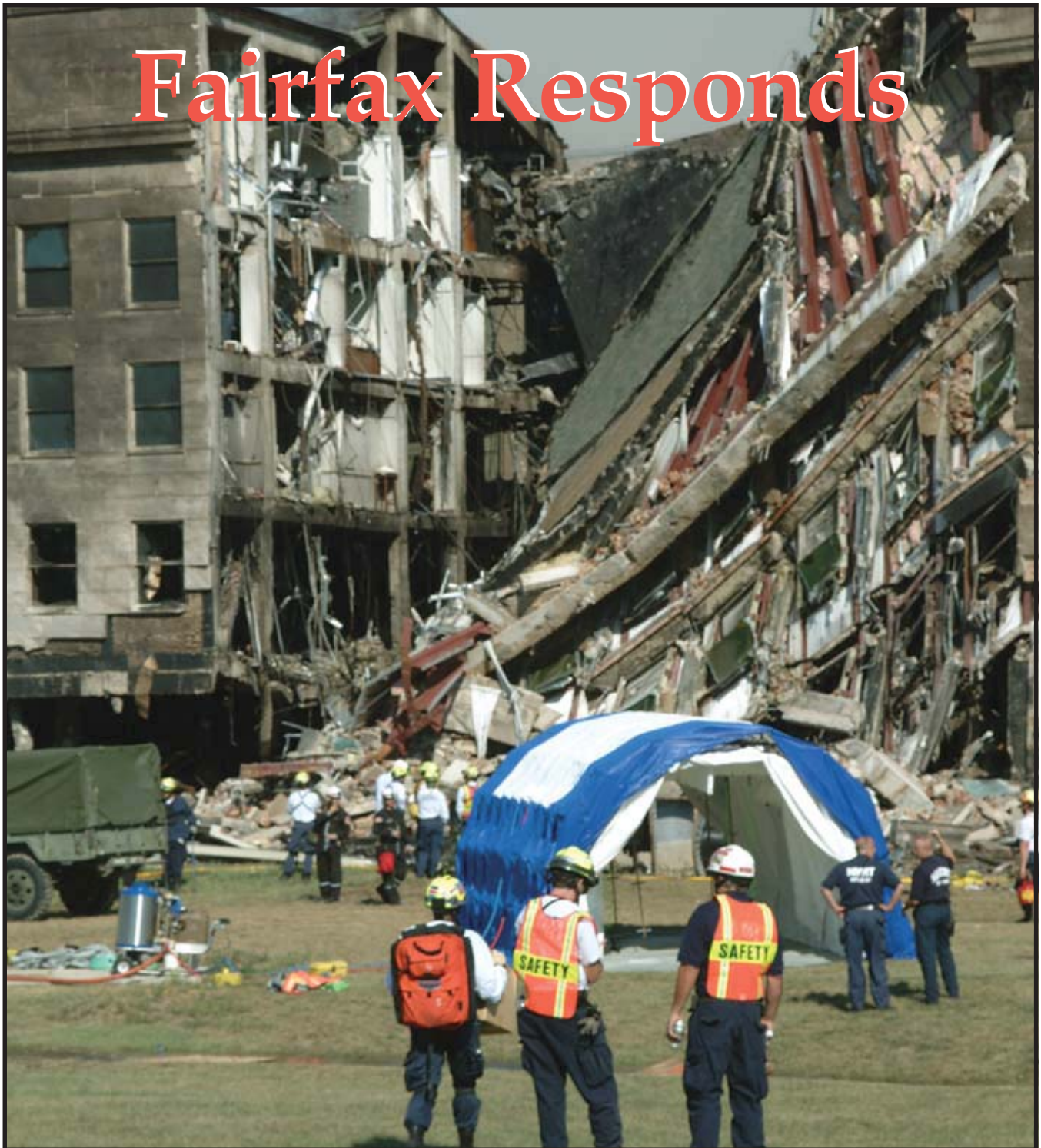


LINE COPY



September/October 2001 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

Fairfax Responds





Edward L. Stinnette

“The thoughts that are relived about that day are many, but my most profound thought is how proud I am of the members of this Department.”

From The Fire Chief . . .

The tragic consequences of September 11, 2001, continue to influence the day-to-day operations of the Department even though months have elapsed. The thoughts that are relived about that day are many, but my most profound thought is how proud I am of the members of this Department.

I had the opportunity to visit the Pentagon site on several occasions following the September 11 incident. Everywhere I went I saw the highest level of performance by all our members. I was at the scene during the huge mutual aid firefighting and rescue operations, during our US&R team deployment and daily operations, and during the build-up of company operations. Since that time, I've met with many local, state, and federal officials who had the opportunity to see, meet, and work with our members. The one constant throughout all of their comments was how impressed they were with our sense of dedication and professionalism.

I'm also extremely proud of the actions of our support staff during the event. Communications personnel handled not only a major mutual aid incident, but moved multiple units into Arlington County, filled stations in the City of Alexandria, while simultaneously moved other units from outside jurisdictions into Fairfax County stations. They did this while dealing with multiple command posts,

multiple specialty team activations, and a flurry of phone calls to the Public Safety Communications Center to answer questions of all varieties.

Logistics also played a significant role and continues to this day. Personnel from logistics formed the nucleus that ordered and maintained supplies for multiple military operations as well as for other surrounding jurisdictions. I'm also proud of the performance of the many members of the Apparatus Section who were deployed to the Pentagon and spent long hours performing tasks above and beyond the call of duty. Task force leaders continue to praise the long hours and can-do attitude of these members.

While I'm not able to mention every person or section because of space, it is obvious that our performance on September 11, and those days that followed, clearly showed our commitment to serve our community. It is the performance of the entire team that makes the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department the premier organization it is today.

Finally, I want to conclude by saying the pride and confidence the entire Nation has shown to the firefighting profession since September 11 compliments the overwhelming pride I personally feel for this Department. ❖

Edward L. Stinnette, *Fire Chief*
Dan Schmidt, *Editor*

Jackie Lewis, *Production Editor*
Scotty Boatright, *Staff Photographer*

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From The Editor . . .



The date 9-11-01 will indeed live on for each and every American, it will stay with us forever. As the days have passed, the American people have witnessed first hand the selfless, invaluable service firefighters have given to the communities they have steadfastly served during these most trying times.

The Twin Towers, the Pentagon, the bio-terrorism—all events that truly show what firefighters are made of. As the first responder, it is they who have dealt with the unspeakable, the unconceivable, and the unmentionable. Regardless, they responded with professionalism, compassion, and the unquenchable need to help people, and to just make things better. It didn't matter who called, when they were called, or really why they were called—they answered without hesitation and didn't think twice of what consequences might follow. This Department rose to that occasion, it did all of those things and more.

Peggy Noonan, a contributing editor with the Wall Street Journal wrote this: "what they did on that brilliant blue day in September—was like D-Day. It was daring, brilliant, brave, and the fact that they did it, charging into harm's way—changed the world we live in." She writes, "they were the goodness that comes out when society is cracked open. They were responsible. They took responsibility under conditions of chaos. They did their job under heavy fire, stood their ground, claimed new ground, moved forward like soldiers against the enemy. They charged.

And like the soldiers of old, from Pickett's men through D-Day, they gave us a moment in history that has left us speechless with gratitude and amazement, and maybe relief, too."

She continues by stating what a Christian scholar said to her recently in Manhattan—"that horror and tragedy crack open the human heart and force the beauty out. It is in terrible times that people with great goodness inside become most themselves. The real mystery, is not the mystery of evil, but the mystery of goodness."

Firefighters have done their job, and well, and continue to do it from the front, 24-7. I believe the American people feel a sense of relief, have more hope, and contentment in what firefighters do for us everyday. It has not gone unnoticed. Thank you. ❖

December 2001

3 Child Seat Safety Check

Fair Oaks
Fire and Rescue Station No. 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact: Lieutenant Stone
(703) 246-3963

10 Child Seat Safety Check

North Point
Fire and Rescue Station No. 39
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact: Lieutenant Stone
(703) 246-3963

20 Fire Chief's Visit, Academy

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

25 Christmas Day

27 Fire Chief's Station Visit, Station 34

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

January 2002

1 New Year's Day

3 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 1
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

10 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 2
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

21 Martin Luther King Day

24 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 1
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

31 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 2
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

February

7 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 1
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

14 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 2
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

28 Fire Chief's Station Visit, (TBD)

Fire and Rescue Station in Battalion 3
Contact: Battalion Chief Johnson
(703) 246-4388

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<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/fire>

A Mission in Our Own Backyard

By Battalion Chief Michael Tamillow
Virginia Task Force One, Task Force Leader

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Virginia Task Force One (VA-TF1), embarked on its closest mission to home. While we watched in horror as the terrorist attacks in New York City occurred, a 757 airliner crashed into the west side of the Pentagon. At 11 a.m., we were placed on full activation for response by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The standards for the National US&R Response System identify the requirements of staffing and fully deploying a task force within a four-to six-hour time period. Because of our proximity to the Pentagon, the assembly point for the task force mobilization was set at Fire and Rescue Station 18. Captain I Bernard D. Bickham and staffing personnel for the task force were directed to fill assignments as quickly as possible. As such, the task force was staffed with whomever we were able to contact. Time was of the essence, we didn't even take the time to leave messages on phone machines for those we weren't able to reach.

We also assembled a six-person advance team to be sent ahead of the task force to begin coordination with the local command structure and begin scene size-up. This frontloading allowed the task force to begin operations much quicker and improve effectiveness. The makeup included: Jim Strickland, command, Deputy

Chief Jeffrey L. Donaldson, planning, Captain II Robert C. Dube, rescue, Captain II Garrett L. Dyer, search, Dr. Joe Barbera, medical, and Dean Tills, structural engineering.

I was pleased that we were able to assemble all personnel and the full equipment cache in a little over two hours. After a quick team briefing, we departed with police escort at 1:30 p.m. It was jarring to have the events unfold so quickly.



Task Force Leader Battalion Chief Michael Tamillow (second from the left) briefs members of Virginia Task Force One along with members of the military at the base of operations located on The Pentagon grounds.

Usually we have a number of hours at the departure airport and on the flight enroute to our destination to gather our thoughts and pre-plan our actions. We had no such luxury this time.

After a 20-minute police escorted convoy, the task force arrived on scene at the west side of the Pentagon at 1:50 p.m. Significant fire suppression activities were still underway.

Because of our quick arrival, this was the first opportunity we had to coordinate our initial US&R operations. This was done while firefighting activities were still underway. One of the first and most fundamental decisions a task force leader must make is determining where the base of operations will be located and set-up. A task force cannot operate effectively until all elements of the equipment cache are off-loaded from the trucks and made available to team personnel. The lawn area adjacent to the impact area was strewn with debris from the aircraft. We were keenly aware that this was a crime scene and understood the need not to disturb the area.

We decided to set-up at the extreme perimeter of the lawn and were able to deploy two 10-person Search & Recon Teams into the structure within 20 minutes upon arrival. Timing on this incident was provident — 20 minutes after the impact of the aircraft into the building, the second through fifth floors of the structure at the point of impact totally collapsed, this happened just after Arlington County personnel had exited the area removing injured victims.

After reporting in to Arlington County's forward Operations Command, VA-TF1 was appointed as the Rescue Branch for the incident. As such, the following issues were identified and addressed:

- Integrated command structure and personnel assignments
- Action plan development
- Rescue/recovery strategies
- Building plans
- Victim location tracking
- Personnel accountability
- PPE
- Decontamination
- Documentation/body removal
- Debris removal/heavy equipment ops

Incoming assets were identified to ensure resources were coordinated into ongoing operations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had mobilized a US&R Incident Support Team to provide overhead coordination for multiple task force operations. Montgomery County MD-TF1 arrived on the scene about three hours after us. Virginia Beach VA-TF2 was expected late in the evening with the Memphis/Shelby County TN-TF1 due the next day.

One of the primary control requirements of a structural collapse (as well as terrorist/crime scene incident) is the initial establishment of perimeter control. Portable chain link fencing was brought in to address this requirement. Once established, controlled entry/egress checkpoints were established by police and military personnel. This was subsequently followed by a

badging process to ensure only appropriate personnel were allowed inside the work area.

Ongoing search and rescue operations were complicated by the significant instability of the building at the impact site. The second through fifth floors had collapsed. Immediately adjacent to the impact site, 34 support columns to the left of the collapsed area made the left side of the site extremely unstable. A significant shoring operation was required to reinforce the weight bearing capacity of the affected first floor area. This operation continued for more than four days with around-the-clock effort. A virtual lumberyard was imported onto the site to provide materials for this operation.

The four stories that collapsed at the impact site were situated in the worst possible way. It constituted a lean-to collapse that was pitched directly towards the left side that had lost most of its bearing columns. Should a slide occur from any of our delayering actions, the falling material could tumble in and wipe out all of the extensive shoring that had been installed. Our structure and heavy rigging specialists identified a unique piece of construction equipment to improve this operation. It was a 72-foot articulating boom called "Pulverizer." It was brought in from Baltimore to better address the delayering process at the collapse site. This machine, similar



Task force members work to stabilize the damaged columns on the first floor of The Pentagon. This significant shoring operation allowed personnel to enter the heavily damaged structure to continue search and rescue operations.



Lieutenant Richard A. McKinney (VA-TF1), and other task force members, work deep within the structure where the aircraft impacted. Photo by Technician John Mayers (VA-TF1).

to an extended backhoe with a huge Hurst tool on its business end, was designed just for this purpose. The jaws were not only able to crush the concrete structural members, but was also able to safely grasp and remove them piece by piece. This greatly improved the safety of overall operations.

An incident of this scale and complexity required the effective integration of many different agencies operating at the scene. This included Arlington County Fire and Police, fire and police agencies from most of the metropolitan area jurisdictions, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Evidence Recovery Team, military personnel (including the Military District of Washington, Engineer Company from Fort Belvoir), contractors from the renovation work that had been ongoing, heavy equipment operators, five FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams and an Incident Support Team, Public Health Service National Medical Response Teams, and others. Practicing the Incident Command System promoted better coordination from all involved agencies.

This has now been the third terrorist incident our task force has responded to — we are getting too much experience at this. It was challenging and gratifying to conduct our US&R operations

in and around the ongoing suppression operations, something new for us. I was very pleased to see how well the Northern Virginia mutual aid system worked. In total, FEMA deployed five US&R task forces to this incident (while simultaneously deploying a total of 20 task forces to the World Trade Center over a three-week period) and an Incident Support Team. These teams worked more than a week mitigating collapse hazards, performing body recovery, and assisting in evidence recovery.

Our suppression and US&R team personnel (as well as many other agencies on scene) benefited tremendously by the untiring efforts of Fairfax County assets like the Resource

Management Section and Apparatus Section. These personnel provided materials, logistics, transportation, lighting, electrical power distribution and maintenance support to ongoing operations, not only for our task force, but for most of the agencies at the site. It's amazing what competent and motivated personnel can achieve under difficult circumstances. They have our undying gratitude.

Equally so, we would like to express our gratitude to the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support a task force mobilization. This includes the department senior staff and operations center personnel, the on-duty command staff, the Ops 6 personnel, off-duty personnel backfilling responding task force members, and last but not least, the Family Support Services Team that addressed the needs and information flow for the spouses and families of team members. These members as well as many other personnel worked as an integrated system to promote these challenging undertakings. This has been teamwork at its finest. ❖

In Their Own Words: Firefighters Discuss the Attack on the Pentagon

By Assistant Chief Mark S. Wheatley
Operations

At 9:44 a.m. on September 11, 2001, a call taker at the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) entered an Aircraft Crash event type into the CAD system and hit the send key. Ten days later, Event Number 012540752 would be closed. During this extraordinary period, hundreds of operational and support personnel would be directly involved with the on-scene actions at the Pentagon as our Nation watched. Others would be called to fill Arlington County stations and to provide emergency response service days after the incident. Many of our personnel filled multiple roles, providing ongoing support and logistical assistance to the various agencies operating at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center site in New York City. The effort behind this incredible event, and all that ensued has been characterized as one of the most difficult and complicated operations to ever face our Department. This article focuses on the personnel who conducted the search operations, treated the injured, and fought the fires at the Pentagon on September 11 - 12. It is based primarily on the oral and written accounts collected from the officers of those units.

We all watched the attack on the World Trade Center unfold and stood in disbelief when the Pentagon suffered a similar fate minutes later

and was immediately carried by all television networks. As the Operations Center at the Massey Building and the County's Disaster Operations Center were being activated at Pine Ridge (PSCC), tactical units and personnel from the county were being deployed to the Pentagon in basically five configurations. They included:

- Initial Task Force consisting of Engines 418, 428, Foam Unit 426, Ambulances 428 and 410, Medic Units 410 and 418, and EMS 4 and Battalion 4.
- Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team - Virginia Task Force One.
- Individual suppression and EMS units that were specifically requested by Arlington dispatch.
- Members of the National Medical Response Team (NMRT).
- Command and logistical support to the Arlington County Fire Department.



Firefighters from Fairfax and Arlington County and military personnel hang the flag from the roof of The Pentagon. From left to right in yellow helmets is Technician Randall K. Schwartz (Station 11, C-Shift), Master Technician Karl C. Sallberg (Station 39, A-Shift), Firefighter David L. Kannard (Station 38, C-Shift), Master Technician David P. Gaber (Station 38, C-Shift), and Technician Robert A. Clark (Station 11, C-Shift). (Photo by R. D. Ward (Department of Defense).)

The following paragraphs chronicle some of what we did and saw during this horrific event. It also provides candid feedback on some of the lessons learned by the people who

were there. These are their thoughts and words.

First arriving units from the County were assigned to various locations at the Pentagon and

quickly found themselves operating with companies from other jurisdictions. Often, clear lines of direction, accountability, and command authority were not apparent or identified.

"When we were formed into a task force, we were sent with Engine 419 and units from three other agencies. This created some working issues in that no one knew each other's capabilities, nor were we assigned with an officer who had formed a good working plan. At one point, we were simply told to "find a hose line and put out any fire you see." **Captain II John L. Everett (Engine 402)**

Units remained engaged in suppression operations for hours

and received multiple assignments extending well into the afternoon and night. Without relief, personnel were assigned to the interior corridors of the Pentagon and faced harsh conditions inside.

"Engine 419 was grouped with a Battalion Chief and another engine crew. Our assignment was to take a handline to the second floor where we assisted with search and rescue, and fire

suppression activities. One firefighter received second degree burns to his face and had to be transported to Arlington hospital. Later we were reassigned to find a handline on the first floor and advance it to another location. This was an extremely labor intensive operation." **Captain I Charles H. Clark (Engine 419).**

"Later Medic 405, as a part of the County's task force, was dispatched to the Pentagon and assigned to the interior for the purpose of search and rescue, fire suppression and ventilation operations, and setting up lights in each corridor. We operated on all five floors within the C, D,

and E rings until approximately midnight."

Lieutenant Matthew B. Myers (Medic 405).

Ingenuity, creativity and resourcefulness on the part of our members were the order of the day. Many assignments were accepted without the knowledge of the Pentagon's interior layout, construction features or pre-plan information. "At approximately 3 p.m., we were given the order to enter corridors 3 and 4 and establish a primary fire attack line. This assignment consisted of establishing a hose line from Engine 409 to the roof of the Pentagon through corridor 3 and 4. Initially we attempted to establish a flying standpipe from Engine 409 to the fourth floor.

After gaining an access point for the standpipe, we realized we could only reach the second floor with the Squirt without shutting down, disconnecting, and relocating it. We established two hose lines that extended through the interior of corridor 3 and 4 and up the stairwell, using multiple lines from Engine 409."

Captain I Charles L. Atkins (Engine 427).

One of the most difficult and demanding type of

operations was the roof division. The running roof fire continued to burn throughout the afternoon and night of September 11. "One of our assignments was to extinguish a running roof fire that was spreading from C to B wing. We attempted to pull the leader line from Engine 409 to the fifth floor and extinguish the fire from beneath. This proved to be very labor intensive." **Lieutenant Christopher Thompson (Engine 409).**

At 5:30 p.m., Tower 436 was dispatched to the Pentagon. Upon arrival, we were assigned to a location to the right of the impact area. The assignment of this sector was to control the fire



Firefighter Stephen Shapiro (Station 27, B-Shift), positions himself near one of the interior rings of The Pentagon as he fights the fire from the crash of American Airlines Flight 77. (Photo by Technician Cecil Greene (Station 16, B-Shift).

under the slate roof that involved the wood support members. This sector worked on the roof until we were pulled off by command due to darkness at 10 p.m." *Master Technician Gary W. Vozzola (Tower 436).*

As injured personnel were treated, many were transported away from the scene by co-workers and civilians. EMS units found themselves face-to-face with the human toll miles away from the Pentagon site. "Medic 405 was assigned to fill Arlington Station 1 at approximately 11 a.m. Upon arrival at the station we came upon an Arlington engine company (unknown which one) assisting a burn patient in respiratory arrest. Bystanders said a co-worker drove her from the Pentagon parking lot. She was burned across her forearms and throughout her respiratory tract by the fireball resulting from the impact of the airliner into the Pentagon. We transported her to Arlington Hospital with the assistance of two recruits from the City of Alexandria Paramedic Class." *Lieutenant Matthew B. Myers (Medic 405).*

Suppression operations at the Pentagon extended throughout the night. At approximately 8 a.m. the morning of September 12, a relief assignment was assembled at Annandale Fire and Rescue Station 8 and sent in as a task force to the Pentagon. Operations focused primarily on stopping and extinguishing the running roof fire that continued to burn. Fortunately, sufficient time was available for planning and specific details related to the roof construction were now available. Despite this, the roof division work proved to be difficult and demanding. "We received a briefing at Station 8, at approximately 7:30 a.m. All Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded Priority One to the Pentagon from Station 8. Captain I Tyrone J. Harrington (Station 9, C-Shift) served as the initial Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units that were responding with our group. Battalion Chief John M. Gleske (Battalion 5, B-Shift) and Battalion Chief Elliott H. Rubino (Battalion 6, C-Shift) arrived prior to our work group, and had received a briefing from the Arlington Fire Department's Incident Commander prior to our

arrival. All unit OIC's were instructed to report to the command post, where Battalion Chief Gleske and Battalion Chief Rubino provided us with several maps that gave us an idea of how the Pentagon was laid out. This was very beneficial to everyone as we were totally unfamiliar with this building. They advised us that our mission was to perform roof firefighting operations on side D of the wreckage. Our group was identified as Division D from the beginning. We were informed that the roof was poured concrete, with a six-inch void on top, consisting of wood studs, with 1 inch by 4 inch cross "decking" (like wood lath, without the plaster), and slate shingles on top of the decking. There was a running roof fire in this six-inch void area that was running a large part of the building. Our job was to cut off this fire from spreading any further, and extinguishing it. The pre-firefighting briefing was clear and concise." *Captain I Paul T. Beardmore (Engine 438).*

"Once on the roof we assisted in stretching several hundred feet of three-inch supply line across a large catwalk to establish our water supply. Once everything was in place, we sized up the running roof fire and decided where we should start our ventilation. The crews using only sledge hammers and flathead axes started to remove the several layers of the slate roof. Under the layers of slate was a built up-roof, and under that was concrete. This operation was very labor intense and required members to be tied off via our lifeline as they were working on an angled roof. If they were to slip or slide on the debris, they would have fallen off the side of the building." *Captain I James J. Walsh (Engine 439).* "At this point, almost everyone was on the roof. The firefighting operation was very labor intensive. Initially, the air was clear enough to work without Self-Contained-Breathing-Apparatus (SCBA), however, the fire kept spreading and as trench cuts were made, the smoke got to the firefighters. The Arlington County Fire Department Incident Commander indicated that Pentagon officials were becoming concerned that we stop this fire, and stop it now, as the fire was approaching sensitive areas of the

(continued on page 12)

Hot Shots



Members of Virginia Task Force One prepare to set up the base of operations at The Pentagon on September 11, 2001.



An aerial view of The Pentagon taken at approximately 5 p.m., September 11, 2001. The foreground shows Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel and equipment assisting the Arlington County Fire Department at The Pentagon, September 11, 2001.



Fire and Rescue Department personnel work in the Operations Center at the Public Safety Complex planning the dispatch and deployment of resources to The Pentagon and Arlington County.



Lieutenant Keith Ludeman (left) (Station 15, B-Shift) and Technician John Stetter (right) (Station 15, B-Shift) work to extinguish the fire that rekindled at The Pentagon on Thursday, September 13, 2001. (Photo by Technician Rick Schmidt (VA-TF1)).



Technician David D. Sweetland (Station 19, B-Shift) operates the pump handle on Engine 419 and Firefighter Jason D. Triplett (Station 15, B-Shift) operates the deck gun during the rekindle of the fire at The Pentagon, September 13, 2001. (Photo by Technician Rick Schmidt (VA-TF1)).



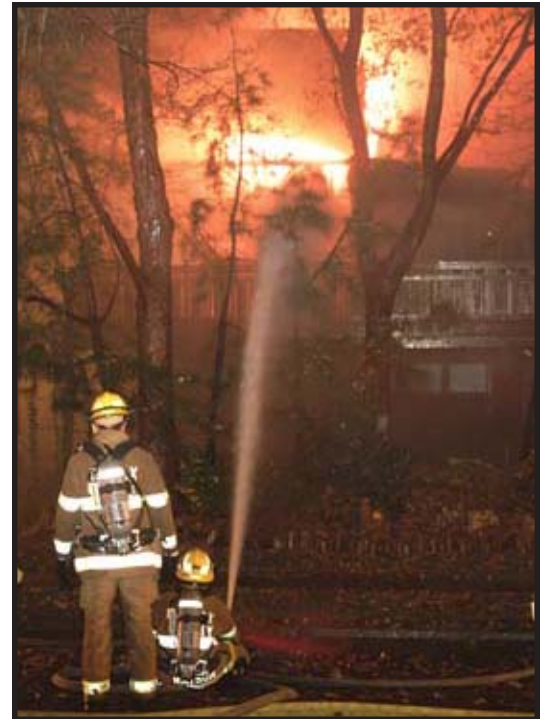
Two alarm . . . firefighters reported the deck on fire with extensions to the first floor and basement at Silver Pine Court, November 5, 2001. Three adults and one teenager were alerted to the fire by a smoke alarm and exited the home. One firefighter suffered minor hand injuries from falling debris.



Fire through the roof at 8414 Pennell Street in the Merrifield area of the county. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 25 minutes. The home sustained damages estimated at \$50,000.



Personnel from Fire and Rescue Station No. 8 responded to a vehicle fire on Gallows Road near Route 50. (Photo by Sheldon Levi (Photo 421).



First arriving units reported fire through the roof at this two-story home at 9403 Raintree Road in the Burke area of Fairfax County. The home was a total loss, fire investigators determined the fire to be accidental.



Technician William C. Schellhammer (left) and Master Technician Martin J. Bundrick (both from Station 31, A-Shift) extricate a patient from a vehicle on Fox Mill Road. Rescue 421 and Engine 431 personnel responded to the incident.

(continued from page 9)

Pentagon. Every firefighter on that roof inhaled significant volumes of smoke, prior to getting their SCBA in place. Many firefighters never used their SCBA because the work was too demanding and the sense of urgency to cut the fire off was like no other fire I have encountered." *Captain I Paul T. Beardmore (Engine 438).*

The roof fire was controlled and generally extinguished at approximately noon on September 12, nearly twenty-six hours after the initial dispatch. With this task complete, suppression efforts focused on putting out spot fires and maintaining fire watch activities throughout the remainder of the afternoon and nighttime hours.

Lessons Learned

Arlington County hired an outside consulting firm to facilitate a critique of the Pentagon operations and publish an after-action report. Our Department is conducting a review of our Operations Center, the Disaster Operations Center, and the actions at PSCC to better define each of our roles and improve the coordination among these centers. Additionally, each of the unit officers who were dispatched to the Pentagon on September the 11 and 12 have been asked to provide a summary of the problems they encountered and other lessons learned. This information will be folded into future training programs, operating procedures, and safety practices. While this feedback is being evaluated, it is apparent that experiences of those at the Pentagon should not go unnoticed or forgotten.

"The only real shortcoming was using Tower 436 to shuttle equipment from the street level to the roof for the majority of the incident. It was well into the incident before we had a designated secondary means of egress. At one point there must have been 30-40 firefighters operating on various sections of the roof. We did have a slight scare with the report of an unidentified inbound aircraft headed to the Pentagon. A quick look around provided us with the reality there was no way off the roof. The tower ladder was on the ground, and there was no other truck set up. The feeling we all got was unexplainable. All we said

to each other was, it's been nice knowing you. I think we need to remember with that many people operating, it's going to take more than two ladders to evacuate all of us. *Captain I James J. Walsh (Engine 439).*

"One suggestion I would have is to group the various task forces with units from the same department. This would assist in standardizing operational procedures. I realize this will be difficult to accomplish initially, however, the benefits received from this would greatly increase operational productivity." *Captain II John L. Everett (Engine 402).*

"Initially finding command and receiving an assignment was very confusing. If we had a person from the County to serve as a liaison for our units we wouldn't have had as much of a delay. There was a lot of freelancing in our area. Units were often doing just what they thought needed to be done without receiving orders from the sector officers." *Lieutenant Christopher Thompson (Engine 409)*

Lack of accountability was a major concern. Multiple jurisdictions were operating and multiple battalion chiefs were in charge of different groups. My remedy for this involved meeting with my crew and ensuring that we utilized a very strict "buddy system" where each person was responsible for the other. Because we had four of us, this worked well." *Captain I Charles H. Clark (Engine 419).*

On September 21, 2001, the last piece of county resources were released from the scene. For all of the planning and training for such incidents, the success of our combined operations came down to the discipline, commitment, and courage of our firefighters, paramedics, unit officers, and command personnel. Perhaps Captain I James J. Walsh's comments summarized our collective actions best when he wrote: "everyone worked up the inner strength and rose to the occasion and completed their task. This is where you understand the true meaning of our profession." ❖

A Day of Terror — A Different View

*By Battalion Chief Dewey H. Perks
Special Operations, Urban Search and Rescue*

As I sat and watched the unfolding story of terror and bravery from my post in Albania, I was filled with a feeling of amazement and as strange as it may seem courage and pride. I had traveled to Albania earlier in the week, to represent the Department's humanitarian relief effort by performing a pre-disaster mitigation assessment. This assignment came as an outgrowth of our involvement with the Department of Defense's effort to assist developing countries prepare for sudden onset emergencies, and followed an April assignment performed by Master Technician Clyde Buchanan, Support Services, in Turkey.

Albania is largely a mountainous country, situated close to the same seismic fault lines that caused such destruction in Turkey and Greece in 1999 and it also receives nearly 3.5 feet of rainfall annually. These factors contribute to an often-repeated chain of catastrophic events, leading to death and destruction from earthquakes, floods, and landslides. The rules of engagement for the assignment included assessing the preparedness and operational readiness of Albanian civilian and military resources to perform search and rescue activities following these calamities.

Our team was just finishing its work at the Albanian military's Civilian Protection Brigade, when a Major in the Czech Republic Army was called from the meeting to take a telephone call. When he returned, his previously collegial mood had become very somber as he announced the news that some type airplane had just crashed into the World Trade Center. As we left the

military compound, we had no access to public radio, so our conversation was centered on the just finished assessment, as well as the usual speculation of how a small plane could have hit the Towers. As we arrived back at our hotel, we were first told that it had not been a small plane, but a commercial jetliner. Shocked, we all returned to our rooms, still not realizing that our country was under attack.

When traveling overseas, I have become accustomed to getting news from CNN-World, and today was no different. I quickly tuned in to try to find out what was happening, when another member of the team called to say that this had been a terrorist attack, and that I should come to his room, as soon as possible. As we stood and watched the horrible reports coming from New York City, we learned of the second attack on the Pentagon. While my first thoughts had been of the work my many friends from the Fire Department of

New York (FDNY) would be doing, they now became more personal, knowing that the men and women of my Department would soon be engaged.

My thoughts were also directed to my family. The telephone service in Albania is totally unreliable, and since leaving home on September 8, I had not been able to call home. Unexplainably, I awoke early in the morning of September 11 (still late night in the US due to the plus 6-hour time difference) with a sense of urgency to speak with my family. After trying to reach them for nearly four hours, I finally gave up in frustration.



Knowing that my wife, Karen, works at Dulles International Airport, and hearing that one of the doomed flights had left from that field, I could not be certain that she, or my sons were safe. Continuous efforts were made, not only by me, but by all of my colleagues, to make contact. Using hard-line and GSM cellular telephones, our results were either a quick disconnect, or an obnoxious recording telling us that all circuits were busy. Trying to reach anyone in Fairfax was impossible, we tried Karen's work and cell

numbers, my home number, the Operations Division, and the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). Finally a colleague yelled that he thought he was getting through to Operations, but instead it was a disappointing busy signal. Our efforts continued throughout the night without success.

As we were again drawn to the television, the realizations of what had happened became ever more obvious. Having visited the Twin Towers previously, I knew that these buildings combined represented a small city – 50,000 workers, not counting the scores of pedestrians that would be normal at that hour. As we watched the first sickening collapse, I knew that the incident had become even more personal with the certain injury and death of firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. As the only civilian on this team of six, I found great comfort in the support my colleagues offered during this difficult time.

My colleagues were also very interested in what fire departments do when confronted by

something of this magnitude. I found it to be a purposeful mental diversion to tell them what differences in smoke color meant, the dangers of buildings that have suffered collateral damage, all about first responders and secondary devices, what stress does to rescue workers, how the worry of spontaneous collapse begins to wear on you, the concern of a continued active fire, asbestos, and the worries that come from uncontrolled public utilities. We spoke at length about fireground operations, as well as

specialized response teams like the NMRT. In many ways, this was the first exposure they had ever had with the fire department, and they were more than impressed. Because my teammates were all military, they were obviously more



interested in the work being done at the Pentagon. I was very proud to tell them that the response included units from our Department. They were certainly happy when the fire was brought under control, but the greatest compliments were rendered when the flag was draped over the side of the Pentagon. I was especially proud to tell them that members of our Department were part of that crew.

They were also interested as well in Urban Search and Rescue (US&R), after hearing that 12 Task Forces had been activated. Explaining how the activation system works, I was somewhat dejected (but proud) to know that Virginia Task Force One would soon be actively engaged at the Pentagon. They asked very pointed questions in

regard to tools and equipment used, as well as being seemingly amazed by the operational capacity (especially deployment times and self-sufficiency) each has.

As we returned to our rooms for the evening, we were informed that additional security would be provided at our hotel, but that our assessment activities were to be suspended pending further information. One last look at the television informed me that the FDNY Fire Chief and other members of his senior staff were feared lost. I thought what this would mean to our Department and to me personally. There have been five Chiefs of Department in my nearly 30-years of service, only one lost suddenly. I spent a few private moments reviewing what each of these men had meant to me during my career,

and how I would react during such tragic circumstances. But I knew that my friend FDNY Battalion Chief Raymond Downey would be doing all he could to coordinate the ongoing multi-agency rescue operations in New York.

Before going to bed that night, I tried one last time to get through to Karen and I must admit that I felt a small bit of elation as the call finally went through, and I heard the familiar ring. I also knew as it reached the fourth chime that I would soon be talking to my answering machine. Even that gave me some relief, as I was able to report that I was safe and left the number to my hotel. At 6 a.m. (Albania), Karen finally got back to me and we were able to speak for about three minutes. I was also able to talk briefly with Ethan (my youngest son) and was somewhat

concerned to hear how much he had seen and retained from this horrible tragedy. I felt somewhat guilty in not being there to try to explain to him (somehow) what all this meant. I remembered how I left for Oklahoma City as both Ethan and Thomas (my older son) slept – a departure without time for goodbyes. As I have done ever since, before leaving for Albania I spoke with each of them openly about why I was going to a country with an uncertain security reputation. I told them with confidence that I was not concerned for my safety because I knew that my government would not knowingly place me in harms way.

The next day was spent compiling the results of the earlier assessment, as the team underwent a lockdown for

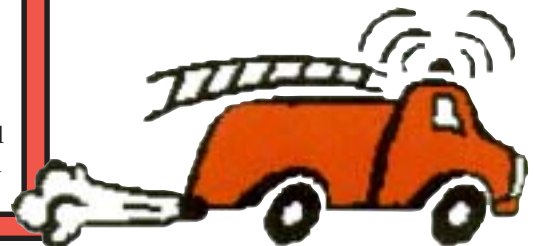
Top 10 Activity Report

August/September 2001

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 413	420	E 410	498	R 421	278
A 410	388	E 408	488	R 418	277
A 408	363	E 429	487	R 426	268
A 409	348	E 409	473	R 401	217
A 430	339	E 401	472	R 411	200
A 411	329	E 413	455	R 414	171
A 436	299	E 421	454	R 439	152
A 428	292	E 411	435	R 419	136
A 434	291	E 404	432		
A 414	280	E 425	432		

Medic		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains		Ladder Truck	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 418	516	EMS4	292	T 429	286
M 426	437	EMS5	276	T 425	283
M 422	420	EMS3	238	T 410	263
M 408	404	EMS2	224	T 408	230
M 425	400	EMS6	222	T 430	211
M 421	399	EMS1	209	T 422	190
M 410	392	BC04	157	T 436	177
M 411	390	BC02	114	T 401	174
M 401	385	BC06	96	T 405	174
M 4017	385	BC05	84		

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call to be included in an event history file. A unit add-on is not considered a dispatch. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.



Large Loss Fire Investigations

Date: 8/01/01 Box: 3004 Address: 3304 Highland Lane Type: House Cause: Accidental-Electrical Value: \$450,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 8/07/01 Box: 0102 Address: 930 Dolly Madison Boulevard Type: Penthouse Cause: Accidental-Welding Value: \$100,000,000 Loss: \$1,000 Status: Closed
Date: 8/11/01 Box: 3803 Address: 6752 Gray Post Type: House Cause: Accidental-Lightning Value: \$451,000 Loss: \$451,000 Status: Closed
Date: 8/13/01 Box: 1514 Address: 13804 Poplar Tree Road Type: House Cause: Accidental-Kitchen Value: \$250,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 8/25/01 Box: 2402 Address: 8017 Hammond Street Type: House Cause: Accidental-Kitchen Value: \$250,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 8/28/01 Box: 2901 Address: 2063 Chain Bridge Road Type: Commercial Cause: Accidental-Electrical Value: \$1,337,020 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 9/8/01 Box: 0205 Address: 9532 White Cedar Court Type: House Cause: Accidental-Explosion Value: \$500,000 Loss: \$500,000 Status: Closed
Date: 9/12/01 Box: 3407 Address: 3044 Sugar Lane Type: Townhouse Cause: Accidental-Electrical Value: \$250,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed
Date: 9/23/01 Box: 2702 Address: 8394 Uxbridge Court Type: Townhouse Cause: Accidental-Kitchen Value: \$200,000 Loss: \$50,000 Status: Closed

security reasons. Still glued to the television, I heard the report that one of those feared dead in New York was the Chief of Special Operations. I sat in stunned disbelief as the words sank in – that was the title used by Ray Downey, but hoping against hope, I continued to believe that the report was not true. Sadly, his name along with many others reported dead or missing was soon displayed at the bottom of the screen. As I continued to work on my report, I reflected on the work that Ray had done to develop the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National US&R Response System and how hard he had fought to keep task forces organized and prepared. His loss to his Department, family, and friends will be immense, but his loss to national preparedness is immeasurable.

The next days were spent performing limited assessments in and around Tirana, since the team was still not permitted to venture out into the countryside of Albania. The time was also spent in contemplation of what it meant to be an American abroad during times of crisis, but I

must quickly add that I never once felt threatened. As we traveled throughout the city of Tirana, citizens would constantly approach and express sympathy and offer condolences for our loss. I was also able to observe these trying times from a different perspective, being so far removed. To watch the outpouring of support from so many nations filled me with the resolve that not only would a new America emerge, but also a new world. I watched as work continued in both New York and Arlington, and I was filled with pride by the labor being done by those I know, and those I could relate to.

Much has been said about the seeming indifference to tragedy the American society has developed as we sit “safely on our side of the world.” I realized that those days were now gone, but hoped that the result would be a stronger international society. I saw compassion, but also witnessed reports of intolerance toward Arab-Americans. I knew that this intolerance was just an initial reaction that could be expected in any culture, but I also hoped that it would be quickly stopped. I wondered which freedoms

Arrests/Petitions

Date: 6/1/01 Box: 2108 Address: 12104 Green Leaf Court Type: Apartment Narrative: The defendant pled guilty, received one-year probation, and must attend counseling.
Date: 6/03/01 Box: 1402 Address: 5814 Bunker Woods Lane Type: Vehicle Narrative: The defendants each received one-year probation, must attend the Fire Stoppers Program and pay restitution.
Date: 6/19/01 Box: 2122 Address: 4113 Stevenson Street Type: Comm Narrative: Fire investigators charged a 49-year-old female with setting a group home on fire. A trial date is set for December 4.
Date: 6/21/01 Box: 3507 Address: 8013 Oak Hollow Lane Type: Outside Narrative: Fire investigators charged three juveniles. Each defendant was ordered to pay restitution, received 30 days in juvenile detention, one-year probation, and attend the Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program.
Date: 6/26/01 Box: 0900 Address: 2913 Dunbar Street Type: House Narrative: The defendant was sentenced to 180 days, 140 suspended and \$500 fine and \$250 suspended with 30 days to pay.
Date: 7/1/01 Box: 0110 Address: 7400 Georgetown Pike Type: Vehicle Narrative: Fire investigators charged one adult with setting a fire capable of spreading. A trial date was set for November.
Date: 7/05/01 Box: 2710 Address: 8800 Terry Lynn Court Type: Outside Narrative: Fire investigators charged three juveniles. Each defendant received one-year probation, must attend the Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program, and were ordered to complete community service.
Date: 7/6/01 Box: 1930 Address: 9632 Franklin Woods Place Type: House Narrative: Fire investigators charged one juvenile with using illegal fireworks. A trial date has been set for November.
Date: 7/6/01 Box: 2609 Address: 7437 Long Pine Drive Type: Outside Narrative: An informal hearing was conducted in August. Juvenile must attend the Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program, complete 40 hours of community service, and pay restitution.
Date: 7/08/01 Box: 4401 Address: 194 Laurel Way Type: Vehicle Narrative: Two juveniles were charged for unlawful activities with fireworks. A trial date was set for October 29.
Date: 7/28/01 Box: 3501 Address: 7000 Cottontail Court Type: Outside Narrative: Fire investigators charged three juveniles with an outside fire. The defendants were ordered to complete 40 hours each of community service.
Date: 8/29/01 Box: 2504 Address: 1607 Becontree Lane Type: Outside Narrative: Fire investigators charged one juvenile with burning personal property. Juvenile received one-year probation ordered to pay restitution and must attend the Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program. The juvenile received one-year probation and must make restitution.

that my children had come to expect would decrease, as well as what this callous attack would mean to other children when the inevitable retaliatory strike occurs.

But in every instance, I knew that the men and women of our Department would be ready to respond, have the courage to persevere against all odds, and to be willing to "risk a life to save a life," regardless of the location or reason.

God Bless America...Our Home Sweet Home. ❖



There will be days you will need to pretend you have energy and optimism, but soon pretending becomes reality.

Community Outreach Highlights



Ernie and Anne McKenna, family friends of Lieutenant Tom Papoutssis (Station 29, B-Shift) presents a \$4,000 check and a video from the townspeople and local fire brigade from the town of Frome in Somerset, England, for the 911 disaster relief fund. Former Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department firefighter Bill Butler accepts the donation. Firefighter Butler, now a FDNY firefighter, escaped entrapment in the World Trade Center, September 11, 2001.

The Fire and Rescue Department's major outreach to the community every year is Fire Prevention Week Open House. Lieutenant James B. Johnson (left) and Firefighter Timothy M. Kelly (Station 8, A-Shift) assist a youngster escaping a simulated smoke filled room at the Annandale Fire and Rescue Station No. 8, during their open house, October 13, 2001.



Edward McCarty, President of Enterprise Rental Car, presents a check to Technician Bonnie Tobalske (left) and Chief Edward L. Stinnette (right) for \$125,000 to benefit the Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County. Mr. McCarty authorized the use of rental vehicles for Fairfax County firefighters that assisted in the relief efforts in New York City.

Retirements

Captain I Ross E. Christian
January 3, - November 2, 2001

James S. Hannah
Senior Building Inspector
August 4, 1973 - September 7, 2001

Lieutenant Alan E. Gooding
October 15, 1974 - October 19 2001

Anniversaries

10 Years

Robert H. Buxmann, Instructor III
Eric D. Cramer, Instructor III
Robert W. Dickerson, Management
Analyst II
Thomas J. Eisenhardt, Instructor III
Anne E. Graziadei, Instructor III
Richard L. Hall, Instructor III
Wanda M. Herbel, Instructor III
William J. Hershman, Instructor III
Jeffrey R. Lindstrom, Instructor III
Brad H. Miller, Instructor III
David M. Miska, Instructor III
Derek A. Rowan, Instructor III
Martin J. Silvestri, Instructor III
Steve M. Willey, Instructor III
Jonathan P. Wood, Instructor III
Susan W. Yamashita, Instructor III

15 Years

Lieutenant Ben A. Dye
Lieutenant James B. Johnson
Technician Jeffrey F. Klopp
Lieutenant Joseph Palau
Master Technician Matthew P. Ryan
Technician Roderick J. Schmidt
Firefighter Clarke V. Slaymaker
Captain I Anne L. Tennant
Lieutenant Lorenzo M. Thrower
Master Technician Gregory D.
Washenko

20 Years

Lieutenant Charles F. Adams
Edith V. Beitzel, Management
Analyst II
Technician Louis J. Berkeszi
Firefighter Duane R. Breisch
Lieutenant Guy P. Davis
Lieutenant Virgil W. Derricott
Technician Larry L. Duncan
Lieutenant Reginald O. Lassiter
Captain I Lynn R. McConahy
Technician Eric D. Moore
Master Technician William M.
Owensby
Master Technician James H. Parson
Firefighter Uwe B. Reins
Battalion Chief Andrew D. Snead
Lieutenant Paul S. Stuart
Master Technician James D. Wilson
Captain II Richard J. Yuras

New Hires

Joshua R. Allen
Heather A. Campbell
Brian K. Cannon
Sharon L. McCraw
Richard M. Mock
Kizzy W. Penn
Shawn G. Perry
Mary Beth Sefton
Ramona I. Vega
Ross E. Christian



Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County



November 3, 2001
Dinner/Dance
and
Retirement Celebration



Technician Bonnie Tobalske, President of the Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County, thanks everyone for their support of the Firefighters' Fund during the annual dinner/dance and retirement celebration.



Deputy Chief Jeffrey L. Donaldson (C-Shift) presents Elaine Long with her certificate of retirement.



Congratulations to Fire and Rescue Station 31, B-Shift, for 100 percent attendance. The shift will keep the "pass along award" until next year. They received the award for having the most people in attendance from one shift/office in the department. The award will again be passed on next year, November 2, 2002.



Station Profile West Annandale Fire and Rescue Station #23

Captain II
Alfred E. Mullins
Station Commander



Volunteer Chief
Roger Waller

Station constructed: 1974

Station specialty: "Little River Express," we're second due everywhere.

Square miles in first due area: 7.9

Specific hazardous/target areas: I-495, Pickett Road Tank Farm, Northern Virginia Community College.

Total calls in 2000: 2,543

Equipment assigned to station: Engine, pumper, pumper reserve, ambulance, canteen, medic reserve, and utility.

Station personnel: **A-Shift:** Captain I Edith M. Eshleman, Master Technician William M. Owensby, Technician Jerome D. Barbour, Technician Robert J. Desousa, Firefighter Ramon M. Estrada, Firefighter Rolf F. Lenzsch, and Firefighter Timothy J. Pais. **B-Shift:** Captain I Philip R. Tricarico, Master Technician Allen O. Corner, Technician Allen R. Batson, Technician James M. Kidwell, Firefighter Thomas G. Arnold, Firefighter Mark D. Franklin, and Firefighter Binokha J. Harris. **C-Shift:** Captain II Alfred E. Mullins, Technician Ronnie N. Briscoe, Technician Thomas R. Carver, Technician G. Brian Mayhugh, Firefighter Arnold J. Barrow, Firefighter Keith E. Curriden, and Firefighter Robert D. Hicks.

Volunteer President: Raju Khemani

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Information and Life Safety Education Section
4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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